Projects under Rural Tourism Scheme in Andhra Pradesh

281. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh under the Rural Tourism Scheme sanctioned in the Tenth Plan;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the above projects have been given sanction only in 2003-04 *i.e.,* in the middle of the Tenth Plan;

(c) if so, the reason for delay in identifying the projects; and

(d) what is the action plan of Government to complete the projects before the end of the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Based on proposals received from the State Government the Rural Tourism Projects have been sanctioned for following destinations of Andhra Pradesh:

(i) Pochampalli,

(ii) Konaseema,

(iii) Puttaparthi,

(iv) Srikalahasti,

(v) Chinchinada.

(b) to (d) The creation of infrastructure in rural areas having potential for tourism is being supported under the existing scheme of Destination Development. The funds are sanctioned and released based on the proposals received from the State/UT Governments. Thus, there has been no delay in identifying the projects. The implementation of the projects sanctioned is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, the monitoring of the implementation of sanctioned projects is done regularly to ensure timely completion.

Development of Buddhist Centres in Uttar Pradesh

282. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh propose to embark upon a major programme with the help of Japan Bank of

International Cooperation for the development of Buddhist Centres in that State to attract foreign tourists in a bigway;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the entire work is likely to be completed; and

(c) to what extent and how Central Government propose to assist the State Government in this venture?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) A loan agreement has been signed with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation for an amount of 9495 million Japanese Yen for the development of Buddhist Circuit in Uttar Pradesh. The scope of work under this project will include road and utilities improvement, site development, supporting programmes and consultancy services. The project is expected to be completed by December, 2011. While Ministry of Toursim, Government of India will be the executing agency of the project. Department of Tourism Government of Uttar Pradesh will be required to act as a coodinating agency on behalf of the State Government.

Facilities for Indian tourism industry

† 283. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism places of the country have gained attraction of tourists across the world as a result of which the number of foreign tourists arriving in India has increased one and a half fold in the year 2005 compared to the last year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that foreign tourists have to face difficulties and hesitation on their arrival in the country despite such attraction because of persisting problems in the absence of tourism structural facilities; and

(c) if so, what is the view point of Government for promotion of Indian tourism industry and comprehensive details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Promotional efforts of the Ministry of Tourism in

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.